

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

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R 1027-3Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0662

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 4890

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: P BV BL

SUBJ: NEW MINISTER OF STATE--WALDO CERRUTO CALDERON DE LA BARCA

1. LA PAZ PRESS REPORTS WGWDO CERRUTO CALDERON DE LA BARCA TO BE APPOINTED AUGUST 10 AS NEW MINISTER OF STATE, OCCUPYING CABINET POST LEFT VACANT SINCE ALFREDO ARCE SHIFTED TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR APRIL 29. CERRUTO REPORTEDLY SELECTED BY BANZER DUE TO HIS ENERGETIC PERFORMANCE AS PREFECT OF LA PAZ DEPARTMENT FROM AUGUST 1971 50 DATE.

2. EMBASSY SUBMITS FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON CERRUTO: BORN LA PAZ APRIL 28, 1925. SECONDARY STUDIES AT BOLIVAR AND BALLIVIAN SCHOOLS IN LA PAZ. THREE YEARS OF UNIVERSITY STUDY IN NATIONL UNIVERSITY OF LA PLATA (ARGENTINA). FOUNDER OF BOLIVIAN CINEMATROGRAPHIC INSTITUTE AND CULTURAL MAGAZINE "WARA WAR." WHILE IN ARGENTINA, EDITED MAGAZINE "HORIZONTE", DEVOTED TO BOLIVIAN-ARGENTINIAN CULTURAL EXCHANGE. INDEPENDENTLY WEALTHY, HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE DEVOTED MOST OF HIS TIME TO POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN RECENT YEARS. ORIGINALLY A MEMBER OF MNR, HE JOINED BREAK-AWAY MNRA OF WALTER GUEVARA ARCE AND SUBSEQUENTLY ESTABLISHED HIS OWN PARTY: THE SHORT-LIVED UNION DEMOCRATICA REVOLUCIONARIA.

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IN 1966, WAS PRESIDENT OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC COMMUNITY, A RIGHT-WING ELECTORAL VEHICLE PRINCIPALLY COMPOSED OF FSB MILITANTS, THOUGH CERRUTO NOT A MEMBER OF THAT PARTY. IN MID-1970, HELPED ORGANIZE BRIEF RIGHTIST TAKEOVER OF SAN ANTONIO UNIVERSITY IN LA PAZ HE TOOK PART IN 1971 COUP WHICH OVERTHREW TOGNES REGIME. HIS SISTER, CARMEN, WAS FIRST WIFE OF MNR LEADER VICTOR PAZ ESTENSSORO; SHE DIED IN 1953 UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES. HIS BROTHER, MAJOR GENERAL JALUER CERRUTO CALDERON DE LA BARCA, WAS COMMANDER OF AIR FORCE IN 1964 UNTIL BARRIENTOS' COUP; IN 1965, HE WAS RETIRED AND POSTED AS BOLIVIAN CONSUL IN SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA.

BREWIN

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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